Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 SCCT-02 SAB-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 011536Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3854

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 8424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, AU

SUBJECT: CALL OF PLO REPS AT AUSTRIAN MFA

- 1. TWO-MAN PLO MISSION WHICH REPORTEDLY ON "GOODWILL TOUR" THROUGH EUROPE WAS IN VIENNA LAST WEEK SEEKING AUSTRIAN SUPPORT FOR PLO CAUSE, ESPECIALLY REGARDING HANDLING OF PALESTINIAN ITEM BEFORE 29TH UNGA.
- 2. MFA HEAD OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT AMBASSADOR STEINER TOLD POLCOUN OCT. 1 THAT CONTRARY TO VIENNESE PRESS REPORTS, HE DID NOT RECEIVE PLO REPS ON SEP. 27 BUT THAT THEY HAD "INFORMATIONAL MEETING" AT OFFICE DIRECTOR LEVEL WITH CHIEF OF MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION WEIDINGER AND CHIEF OF MFA EASTERN EUROPE AND ARAB WORLD SECTION TARTER. PLO REPS MADE LOW-KEY PRESENTATION IN DEFENSE OF PLO CAUSE, MAIN THRUST OF WHICH WAS TO ASK AUSTRIAN SUPPORT FOR (1) RECOGNITION OF PLO AS EXCLUSIVE POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS, (2) INSCRIPTION OF PALESTINE ITEM ON UNGA AGENDA, AND (3) GRANTING PLO OBSERVER STATUS AT UNGA SO THAT IT COULD CONFIDENTIAL

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MAKE PRESENTATION TO 29TH UNGA ON PALESTINIAN INTERESTS. ONLY EMOTIONAL OUTBURST IN OTHERWISE RESTRAINED DISCUSSION

CONCERNED JORDANIAN KING HUSSEIN WHO WAS VIOLENTLY DENOUNCED AS TRAITOR TO ARAB AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO PALESTINIAN INTERESTS.

- 3. AT END OF DISCUSSION PLO REPS REPORTEDLY WERE INFORMED THAT GOA HAS NEVER SUPPORTED GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AT UNGA AND THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS TO CHANGE THIS POSITION. MFA DEMURRED ON PLO SUGGESTION FOR JOINT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ON MEETING. INSTEAD, MFA MERELY INFORMED PRESS THAT MEETING WAS INFORMATIVE VISIT IN WHICH "NO PROMISES OF ANY KIND WERE MADE".
- 4. PLO REPS REFUSED TO DIVULGE TO MFA OFFICIALS WHERE THEY WERE STAYING IN VIENNA OR WHAT OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THEY WERE PLANNING TO VISIT.
- 5. COMMENT: MFA AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE PLO CALLERS IN VIENNA PROBABLY FALLOUT OF MEETING EARLIER THIS YEAR IN CAIRO BETWEEN AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN (AND CHANCELLOR) KREISKY, AS HEAD OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION, AND PLO REPRESENTATIVES. MFA'S CAREFULLY CIRCUMSCRIBED HANDLING OF CALL, PROBABLY AT PROMPTING OF CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, UNDERLINES DOMESTIC POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH HAVING ANY OFFICIAL DEALINGS WITH PLO.HUMES

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